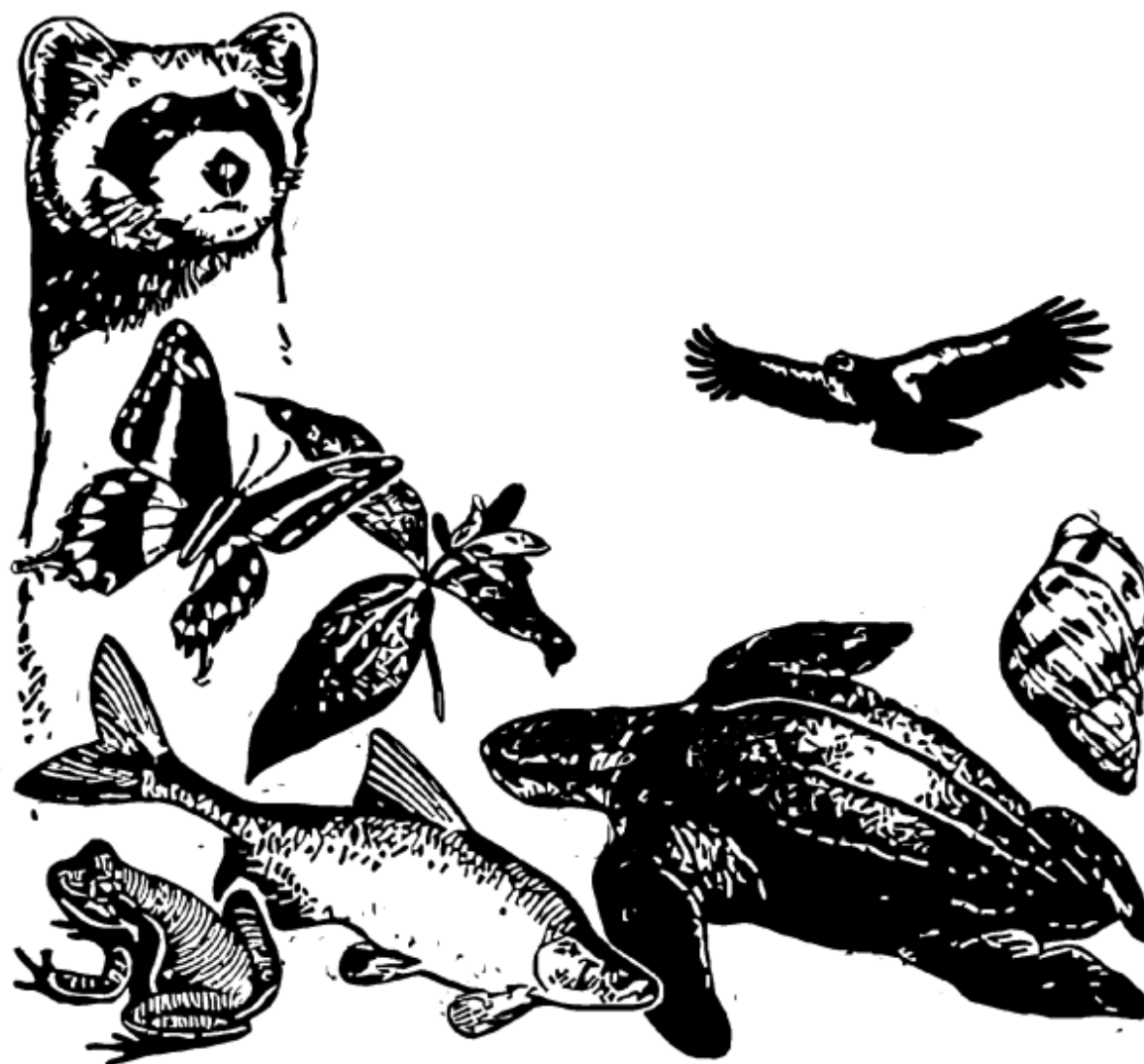


IPaC Project Design Guidelines

Spectaclecase (mussel)

Generated December 11, 2019 04:00 PM MST, IPaC vunspecified



Distribution of the Federally Endangered Spectaclecase Mussel (*Cumberlandia monodonta*) in West Virginia

Freshwater mussels are found in gravelly substrates with moderate current. They feed by filtering food particles from the water column. Juvenile and adult freshwater mussels have been documented to feed on detritus, diatoms, phytoplankton, and zooplankton. Freshwater mussels rely on fish to complete their life histories. When mussel larvae (glochidia) are released into the water by adult females, they must attach themselves within a few days to the gills of an appropriate fish host, which they then parasitize for a short time while developing into juvenile mussels. Population losses and declines have occurred as a result of impoundments, navigation projects, water quality degradation from agricultural and industrial wastes, deforestation and other forms of habitat alteration, including gravel and sand dredging. Impacts that directly affect the species also include reduction or elimination of fish hosts.

This project occurs within a watershed known to support this species. The aquatic habitats below represent the most current information on the known and potential distribution of the federally listed species described above. Prior to conducting any activities that could result in adverse impacts to these aquatic habitats (e.g., projects that involve the placement of rock or other fill material into or adjacent to these habitats, the withdrawal or diversion of water, projects that could introduce sediment or toxic chemicals into waterways, or which could alter water temperature, streamside vegetation, etc.), please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, West Virginia Field Office.

Fayette and Kanawha, Mason and Putnam Counties – Kanawha River